



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/552,717 | 08/07/2006 | Allan Tanghoj | 2003007-US | 6823 |
| 69289 | 7590 | 04/09/2009 | | |
| COLOPLAST A/S | | | EXAMINER | |
| Attention: Corporate Patents | | | HALL, DEANNA K | |
| Holtedam 1 | | | | |
| DK-3050 Humleback, | | | ART UNIT | |
| DENMARK | | | PAPER NUMBER | |
| | | | 3767 | |
| | | | | |
| | | | MAIL DATE | |
| | | | DELIVERY MODE | |
| | | | 04/09/2009 | |
| | | | PAPER | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/552,717

Applicant(s)

TANGHOJ, ALLAN

Examiner

DEANNA K. HALL

Art Unit

3767

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on April 1, 2009 has been entered.

Acknowledgments

2. This office action is in response to the reply filed on April 1, 2009.
3. In the reply, the applicant amended claims 1, 10 and 16. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pedersen et al. (US 6,355,004) ("Pedersen") in view of Tu et al. (US 6,221,070) ("Tu").

Pedersen discloses: a catheter assembly and method comprising a container 4, a catheter handle 10 and at least one catheter element 1 with a proximal end adapted for insertion into the urinary canal and an opposite distal end, the container having a cavity 5 adapted to accommodate at least a proximal section of said catheter element, said catheter handle adapted to be interlocked with said catheter element Fig. 5 and including a sleeve section 6 adapted to surround a portion of said container, the handle is configured to be detached from the catheter element and from the container, Fig. 4.

Pedersen discloses the invention as substantially claimed (see above). However, Tu better teaches the releasable attachment of the handle and the catheter element. Tu teaches a catheter handle 5 having a first interlocking mechanism 6 and a catheter element 2 having a second interlocking mechanism 4 to mechanically lock together the catheter handle and the catheter element Fig. 1. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of Pedersen with the interlocking mechanism as taught by Tu for decreasing the cost of the device by allowing for a releasable handle unit. By the modification of Pedersen with Tu, the handle 5 of Tu is capable of being attached to the container 4 of Pedersen.

The catheter handle is shorter than said container or shorter than said catheter element, Fig 1 of Tu.

Pedersen further discloses the distal section of the catheter element has at least one protruding part and the proximal compartment of the cavity has a distal opening zone with a radially inwardly extending exclusion means adapted to exclude the distal section of the catheter element from entering the proximal compartment, see element 6 and Figs. 1, 6-7.

At least a part of the distal opening zone of the cavity of Pedersen is flexible C4 L27-29.

Pedersen further discloses the catheter assembly further comprises a lubricating medium C5 L66-C6 L4, a hydrophilic coating C5 L4-11 and sealing means 11 for sealing the cavity.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DEANNA K. HALL whose telephone number is (571)272-2819. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00am-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Simons can be reached on 571-272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3767

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Deanna K. Hall/

Examiner, Art Unit 3767

4/7/09

/Kevin C. Sirmons/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3767